

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 IGA-02

/083 W

-----000708 010215Z /62

R 311545Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECSTATE WASHDC 7879

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 4064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SA, UV

SUBJ: SAUDI AID TO UPPER VOLTA

1. IN SOMEWHAT ELLIPTICAL CONVERSATION AUGUST 30, SAUDI REP AL-RACHACH ASKED US WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE SOME KIND OF INFORMAL READING OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN UPPER VOLTA AND ASSURANCES OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ONGOING SAUDI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THERE.

2. FYI DEPARTMENT AND JIDDA: AL-RACHACH IS RESIDENT IN NIAMEY BUT ACCREDITED ALSO TO UPPER VOLTA WHERE OVER PAST YEAR OR SO SAUDIS HAVE BEEN WORKING OUR FINANCING FOR THREE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: (1) TAMBAO MANGANESE MINE AND RAILWAY, (2) A PORTION OF FADA-N'GOURMA ROAD, AND (3) ASSISTANCE TO HEALTH SECTOR. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THESE PROJECTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FUND WHERE AL-RACHACH, WHO TRAVELS INTERMITTENTLY BOTH TO OUAGADOUGOU AND JIDDA, IS TRYING TO NURSE THEM TOWARD FINAL APPROVAL. END FYI.

3. AL-RACHACH WAS GUARDED AS TO WHY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME HE HAD TO VERIFY THAT U.S. STILL SUPPORTS SAUDI
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EFFORTS IN UPPER VOLTA, BUT HE ALLUDED TO TRANSITIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION THERE. WE SURMISE, THEREFORE, THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN ASKED BY JIDDA FOR HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND FOR REASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. REMAINS CONFIDENT ABOUT VOLTAN STABILITY WHILE STILL VIEWING FAVORABLY SAUDI ASSISTANCE EFFORTS WITH GOUV. AL-RACHACH SAID HE WAS FOR THE MOMENT UNABLE TO GO TO

OUAGADOUGOU TO COMPARE NOTES WITH AMBASSADOR GRAHAM.
WE INDICATED TO AL-RACHACH THAT OUR AID PROGRAM IS
CONTINUING AS USUAL IN UPPER VOLTA AND THAT WE HAD NO
REASON TO DOUBT EITHER THAT VOLTANS ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE SAUDI
HELP OR THAT USG WOULD CONTINUE TO VIEW SAUDI DONOR INITIATIVES
THERE AS HIGHLY WORTHWHILE.
THFM ACTION REQUESTED: ASSUMING DEPARTMENT AND JIDDA
CONTINUE TO BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE SAUDI INVOLVEMENT
IN SAHEL, OF WHICH UPPER VOLTA IS KEY PART, IT WOULD BE
USEFUL TO HAVE A BRIEF INDICATION FROM EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
WHICH WE COULD PASS TO AL-RACHACH THAT (1) WE VIEW THE
VOLTAN POLITICAL SITUATION WITH EQUANIMITY, (2) THE
PARAMETERS OF OUR AID PROGRAM THERE REMAIN UNCHANGED,
AND (3) WE CONTINUE TO WELCOME USEFUL ROLE WHICH SAUDIS
HAVE PLAYED WITH PROJECTS SO FAR AND THEIR ONGOING
PARTICIPATION IN MULTI-DONOR APPROACHES IN UPPER
VOLTA AND ELSEWHERE.JAMES

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